

# TECHNOLOGY @ ROCKY FLATS

## *Explosive Cutting*

The driver for explosive cutting was worker safety, in particular to avoid elevated work with heavy materials on scaffolds. The process involved using small charges to cut bolts, hangers, and other metal and masonry materials, principally to take elevated materials and drop them to floor level for further processing. Components removed included an overhead crane, mezzanines, plenums, and stair landings. As an example,

large uranium facility duct located at high-bay ceiling level could be cut in large lengths by workers on man-lifts while it was still suspended, and then the hangers cut explosively to lower it to the floor level for further size reduction. Explosive cutting was done during off hours with workers removed from the building.



Removal of overhead duct in Building 881. The duct and other metal had to be removed because the mostly-underground building was to be imploded after decontamination with the rubble left in place.